



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces Arizona Will Join Multi-State, Bipartisan Health Care Lawsuit

Arizona Joins 15 States to Block Unconstitutional Federal Mandate

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer announced tonight that on behalf of the State of Arizona she will join the other fifteen states who have filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the federal health care legislation.

Although Governor Brewer is authorized to appear and speak on behalf of the State of Arizona in legal matters, the Arizona Legislature, at the request of Governor Brewer, eliminated any doubt by passing a law last week in special session permitting the Governor to initiate a legal proceeding or appear on behalf of the State to challenge Congress's unconstitutional action.

"By passing this onerous federal mandate, Congress has exceeded its authority and left the State of Arizona no option but to challenge its unconstitutional act in federal court," stated Governor Brewer. "Health care regulation is a power reserved to the States by the 10th amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Congress has overreached by requiring individuals to purchase health insurance and penalizing them if they do not."

"We must join this suit to assure the State of Arizona has a voice in the legal proceedings and to assure that Arizona citizens enjoy the benefits and protections of the lower court rulings in favor of the states. This matter is too important to our State to sit back and do nothing."

Governor Brewer's General Counsel, Joseph Kanefield, will represent Governor Brewer and the State of Arizona in the lawsuit. "Mr. Kanefield has many years of experience litigating constitutional matters, including nine years of service as an Assistant and Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Arizona, and is well prepared to defend the rights of Arizona's citizens in federal court."

"The costs associated with the litigation will be minimal (under \$5,000), but nothing compared to the enormous costs that this unconstitutional mandate will exact upon Arizona not only in raw dollars, but by relinquishing our precious liberties guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution."

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